

Lansburgh's Storage Building
413 Eighth Street, NW
Washington
District of Columbia

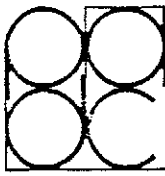
HABS No. DC-586

HABS
DC,
WASH,
300-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127



PENNSYLVANIA
AVENUE
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

425 13TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

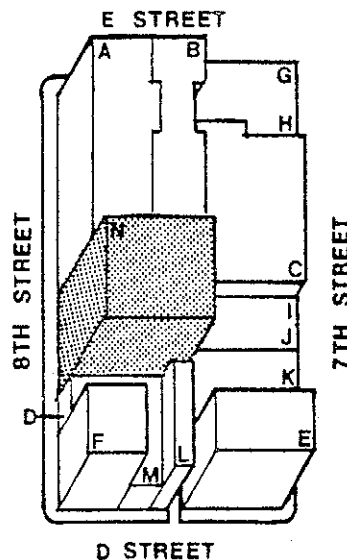
GENERAL CONSULTANTS

ANDERSON NOTTER/MARIANI
GENERAL PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
DEVROUX & PURNELL
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS
DAVID MCLAREN HART & ASSOCIATES
PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
MONK DUNSTONE ASSOCIATES
COST ESTIMATING CONSULTANT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

HABS
DC,
WASH,
300 -

LANSBURGH'S STORAGE
413 EIGHTH STREET, N.W.
LOT 819



This documentation was produced for mitigation purposes by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. Additional documentation exists for Square 431, within which this structure stands. For photographs, historical, and descriptive data on Square 431, see HABS No. DC-574.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Lansburgh's Storage Building is located at 413 8th Street, NW, at the southern end of a complex of buildings which once housed the Lansburgh & Brother Department Store. The building was constructed in 1954 on the whole of Lot 801. Its dimensions are approximately 45' x 104'. Immediately to the north of the structure is the ornately articulated Lansburgh complex. A two-story brick industrial building is directly to the south of the storage building.

The Lansburgh Storage Building is seven stories in height with two bays on its street facade which are defined by garage doors at ground level and horizontal ribbon windows with awning sash on all upper floors. The building has concrete slab floors supported by steel columns which are sheathed in concrete block. The eighth street facade is faced in yellow brick.

The interior of the storage building has an open plan. Two large freight elevators along the east wall of the building are adjacent to a firestair in the northeast corner. A bathroom and trash incinerator chute are directly west of the stairwell. Access to the adjacent Lansburgh & Brother Department Store Building is provided by openings located along the north wall.

The basement of the building contains mechanical and electrical equipment as does the building's first floor. There are two loading docks at street level which are separated from the building's interior by a brick wall with three doorways. The mezzanine level contains three rooms. Mezzanine, second, third, fourth, fifth and seventh floors are open. The sixth floor has recently been altered to accommodate a central hall with offices to either side.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Lansburgh Storage Building is a utilitarian, industrial building which was designed by R.H. Tatlow III of Abbott & Merkt Company engineering firm to provide storage for the Lansburgh & Brother Department Stores. It has little architectural interest. It is of similar height as the adjoining Eighth Street Lansburgh & Brother Building, but is of marked contrast to the delicately detailed and balanced massing of the adjoining building.



Eighth Street Facade (West)

Lot 6
413-415 8th Street

Lot 6, located in the west, central part of the square, measured 51' x 104'-4" when originally platted. It was divided into two lots by the 1890's (Hopkins Plat Map, 1892).

1819.....Lot 6 was owned by Thomas Monroe.

1824.....Thomas Munroe was assessed \$875.00 for his lot.

1829/33...Munroe's assessment rose slightly to \$991.00.

1844.....The original lot was at this time in the records, subdivided, but was not noted in the maps until 1892 (Hopkins).

Lot 6 North (Sublot 818/819)
415 8th Street

1844.....A.P. Skinner was assessed \$729.00 for his north section of Lot 6.

1859.....\$2,624.00 was Skinner's lot assessment.

1872/73...Skinner relinquished his ownership to Robert Pywell. The lot was assessed \$4,374.00.

1878/79

and

1883/84...The assessment dropped to \$2,916.00. The owner was unchanged.

1884.....Charles Baum, a stationer, was listed in the City Directories until 1890.

1893/94...An assessment, in the name of Charles Baum, was \$6,707.00 for the lot and \$4,500.00 in improvements.

1891

to

1914.....No listing of tenants in Boyd's Directories.

1899/

1900.....Baum's title was transferred to Eugene S. Benjamine, \$4,322.00 for the lot, \$3,500.00 for improvements made.

1916

to

1917....."Vacant" listing in Boyd's Directories.

1941.....Building Permit #242,626, April 18, authorized the building of one six-story brick, concrete and steel addition to store, 25'-6" x 94'-4" x 90'. Architect Clifton B. White. Contractor: James C. Parsons. Cost: \$150.00. Used by Lansburgh & Bro. Department Store until 1973.

Building Permit #244,040, May 27 was issued to increase depth of building by 10' and to redesign building in reinforced concrete instead of structural steel as covered by original permit #242626.

A building permit allowed the installation of one passenger elevator.
Contractor: Otis Elevator Co. (8/20/1954, #A58238. Cost: \$34,000.00)

Building Permit #A582,839, allowed Otis Elevator Co., Contractor, to
install one freight elevator (8/20/1954. Cost: \$40,000.00.)

1955.....A March 18, 1955 Building Permit (#A64125) authorized the construction
of an eight inch under block wall, and to cut three openings in the
existing curtain wall, etc. Cost: \$1,000.00.

1979

to

1981.....Having become part of Lansburgh's main building, the service structure
is used by the DC Foundation for Creative Space.

Lot 6 South (Sublot 801)
413 8th Street

- 1844.....Jane Kirby was assessed \$729.00.
- 1859.....The title was changed, to Samuel Kirby. He was assessed \$2,624.00.
- 1872/73...The lot was assessed \$4,374.00, still in the name of Samuel Kirby.
- 187B/79
and
1883/84...Kirby's assessment dropped to \$2,916.00.
- 1883.....Margaret Adamson, a nurse, was listed as occupying 413 8th Street.
- 1892.....Wall surfaces were added, centrally located (Hopkins Plat Map).
- 1893/94...Samuel Kirby was assessed \$6,707.00 for the lot, \$600.00 for improvements.
- 1899/
1900.....The District of Columbia now owned Kirby's property, valued at \$4,322.00. \$7,000.00 was recorded for improvements.
- 1903.....Baists Real Estate Atlas noted Fire Engine Squad No. 14 as tenant. An "L-shaped" alley was located south of the lot, between Lots 5 and 6.
- 1916
to
1949.....Fire Engine Company No. 14 was listed in the City Directories at 413 9th Street. In 1925 the address was changed to 407-409 9th Street.
- 1954.....A June 30 Building Permit (#A56376) authorized the construction of one six-story brick and cinder block addition to store; also additional means of egress, relocate existing kitchen, etc. Cost: \$250,000.00. Assessed to Lansburgh & Bro., to be used as a service building. The structure was used by Lansburgh's until 1973.
- A building permit granted the installation of basins, sinks, water closets, downspouts drinking fountains and a sprinkler system.
(7/1/1954, #A62063. Cost: \$8,000.00)

1974.....The 1974 PADC Property Map indicated Sublot 818 became 819.

1979

to

1981.....The structure has been used by the DC Foundation for Creative Space.

SOURCES

Baist Real Estate Atlas

Bastert and Enthoffer Plat Maps

Boyd's City Directories

District of Columbia Building Permits

District of Columbia General Assessment Records

District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds

District of Columbia Surveyor's Office Records

District of Columbia Tax Records

Hopkins Real Estate Atlas

Polk's City Directories

Property Map for Downtown Urban Renewal Area for District of Columbia Redevelopment
Land Agency

Sanborn Insurance Map